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Control: 17314

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

3:36 PM

FROM: OTTAWA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 521, OCTOBER 23

PRIORITY

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT STATEMENT RE CUBA MADE BY PRIMIN DIEFEN-
BAKER IN HOUSE COMMONS EVENING OCTOBER 22 (UNNECESSARY
WORDS OMITTED):

"LEADER OF OPPOSITION CALLED ME FEW MOMENTS AGO SUGGESTED
IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE IF SOMETHING WERE SAID AT THIS
TIME WITH REGARD TO SPEECH JUST DELIVERED ON TELEVISION
BY PRESIDENT. NATURALLY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY MUCH.
SPEECH WAS SOBERE AND CHALLENGING ONE.

"PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT ON THE ISLAND OF CUBA PREPARA-
TIONS WERE BEING MADE, AND HAD ALREADY BEEN ADVANCED, FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF BASES FOR LAUNCHING OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS
IN FORM OF IRBMs AND THAT THIS CONSTITUTES THREAT TO MOST
OF CITIES OF NORTH AMERICA INCLUDING OUR MAJOR CITIES IN
CANADA. REASON THAT I AGREED TO SUGGESTION OF LEADER
OF OPPOSITION WAS TO ASK CANADIANS AS WELL AS FREE MEN
EVERYWHERE IN WORLD NOT TO PANIC AT THIS TIME. THIS IS
TIME FOR CALMNESS. IT IS TIME FOR BANISHMENT OF THOSE
THINGS THAT SOMETIMES SEPARATE US. ABOVE ALL, IT IS TIME
WHEN EACH OF US MUST ENDEAVOUR TO DO HIS PART TO ASSURE
PRESERVATION OF PEACE NOT ONLY IN THIS HEMISPHERE BUT
EVERYWHERE IN WORLD. THE EXISTENCE OF THESE BASES OR
LAUNCHING PADS IS NOT DEFENSIVE BUT OFFENSIVE. DETERMINATION
OF CANADIANS WILL BE THAT UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE CHARGED
AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT WITH THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

"PRESIDENT

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"PRECIDENT HAS STATED THAT MATTER WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ONCE, AND WHATEVER REACTIONS OF USSR ARE TO STATEMENTS MADE I THINK WHAT PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD WANT TONIGHT AND WILL WANT IS FULL AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN CUBA. WHAT CAN BE DONE? NATURALLY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE TIME TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO POSITIVE ACTION THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN. BUT I SUGGEST THAT IF THERE IS DESIRE ON PART OF USSR TO HAVE FACTS, IF A GROUP OF NATIONS, PERHAPS THE EIGHT NATIONS COMPRISING THE UNALIGNED MEMBERS OF 15 NATION DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE, WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING ON-SIGHT INSPECTION IN CUBA TO ASCERTAIN WHAT FACTS ARE, MAJOR STEP FORWARD WOULD BE TAKEN.

"THAT IS ONLY SUGGESTION I HAVE AT MOMENT, BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE OBJECTIVE ANSWER TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN CUBA. AS LATE AS A WEEK AGO, USSR CONTENDED THAT ITS ACTIVITIES IN CUBA WERE ENTIRELY OF DEFENSIVE NATURE, AND THAT HUNDREDS, IF NOT THOUSANDS, OF CITIZENS OF USSR, MECHANICS, TECHNICIANS AND THE LIKE, WERE SIMPLY IN CUBA FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. AS TO PRESENCE OF THESE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, ONLY ANSWER CAN BE THAT THE WORLD SECURE FACTS THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT INSPECTION.

"I SHOULD LIKE TO HEAR VIEWS OF LEADER OF OPPOSITION ON THIS, AND LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES, FOR IN TIMES LIKE THESE DIVISIONS BETWEEN US ALWAYS DIMINISH. ANY SUGGESTION THAT CAN BE MADE THAT WILL BRING ABOUT AN ALLEVIATION OR A DIMINUTION OF OBVIOUS TENSIONS THAT MUST GRIP MEN AND WOMEN ALL OVER WORLD TONIGHT, WILL BE HELPFUL. OUR DUTY, AS I SEE IT, IS NOT TO FAN FLAMES OF FEAR BUT TO DO OUR PART TO BRING ABOUT RELIEF FROM TENSIONS, THE GREAT TENSIONS OF THE HOUR.

"CANADA HAS TAKEN STRONG STAND THROUGHOUT YEARS ON BEHALF OF PEACE. CANADA KNOWS MEANING OF WAR. CANADIANS WANT PEACE, AS DO ALL FREE MEN IN ALL PARTS OF WORLD. MY PRAYER THIS EVENING IS THAT THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY OF STATEMANSHIP

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STATESMANSHIP WILL ALWAYS HAVE IN MIND THE NEED FOR DOING EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO ASSURE PEACE."

LIBERAL LEADER PEARSON: AGREE WITH PRIMIN ADDRESS PRESIDENT IS "SOMBER SERIOUS STATEMENT." ANNOUNCEMENT CUBA TURNED INTO OFFENSIVE BASE WAS SHOCK NOT ONLY TO CITIZENS US BUT TO CANADIANS AND CITIZENS EVERY FREE COUNTRY. NECESSARY TO PREVENT THAT SHOCK FROM RESULTING IN EITHER FEELING DESPAIR AND HELPLESSNESS OR PANIC. WE TAKE COMFORT PRESIDENT HAS PROPERLY INDICATED MATTER TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND OAS. IMPORTANT THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS BE USED TO VERIFY SITUATION. IF THIS BE DONE WILL BE SOURCE REASSURANCE TO ALL PEOPLE IN WORLD AS TO SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND NECESSITY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT. PERHAPS IT POSSIBLE FOR CANADA TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS BEFORE OAS SINCE THEY ARE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DISCUSSIONS. LIBERALS WILL SUPPORT ANY STEPS BY GOV TO PREVENT SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING INTO INDESCRIBABLE HORROR OF NUCLEAR WAR. "WE WILL BE PRIVILEGED COOPERATE WITH GOVT IN ANYTHING IT CAN DO, IN ANY FIGHT IT CAN MAKE, FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THIS CRISIS."

(IN HOUSE COMMONS CORRIDORS PEARSON TOLD REPORTER "THIS NEW CRISIS HAS FORCED ME TO COMPLETELY REVISE MY OPINION CUBAN POLICY, PARTICULARLY ON TRADE." PEARSON ADDED PREVIOUS STATEMENTS RE CUBA: "I WAS OPERATING THEN ON THE BASIS OF NO EVIDENCE THAT CUBA WAS BEING USED AS OFFENSIVE BASE." PEARSON REPORTEDLY DEMANDED "LONG HARD LOOK AT OUR WHOLE CUBAN POLICY.")

SOCIAL CREDIT LEADER THOMPSON: WE HAVE MORAL OBLIGATION NOT ONLY TO CANADIANS BUT ALSO TO OUR FRIENDS IN IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE THAT ENCOMPASSES WORLD TODAY AND IT IS OUR OBLIGATION MAKE OUR OWN STAND CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. SITUATION IS ONE OF CRITICAL SERIOUSNESS. WHILE TENDENCY TO REGARD CUBAN SITUATION AS A RESULT POLITICAL SITUATION US I DO NOT THINK ELECTION ISSUE INVOLVED HERE.

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HOPE CANADA WILL AGAIN BE ABLE MAKE INFLUENCE FELT IN OAS EVEN THOUGH CANADA NOT MEMBER. THIS APPROPRIATE TIME ASSURE COUNTRIES THIS HEMISPHERE CANADA INTENDS PLAY PART IN THIS MATTER. SOCREDS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT CUBA AND "OUR FULLEST COOPERATION CAN BE ASSURED AT THIS CRITICAL TIME."

NEW DEMOCRATIC HOUSE LEADER HERRIDGE: CANADIANS WILL BE VERY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH FULL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT PRESIDENT. NEW DEMOCRATS DESIRE KNOW WHETHER GOC CONSULTED OR INFORMED BEFORE STATEMENT MADE AND POLICY LAID DOWN. HOWEVER WE WERE VERY MUCH RELIEVED TO KNOW ISSUE BEING SUBMITTED SECURITY COUNCIL AND OAS. WE URGE GOVT AND PARTICULARLY FONMIN "IN WHOM WE ALL HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE" UTILIZE TO VERY LIMIT OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH MANY NATIONS OF WORLD TO END THAT CAUSE OF PEACE BE WELL SERVED BY CANADA IN VERY SERIOUS AND FATEFUL DAYS AHEAD. NEW DEMOCRATS EXTEND TO GOVT "SINCERE AND WHOLEHEARTED COOPERATION IN ALL IT UNDERTAKES TO ADVANCE THIS CAUSE IN WHICH WE ALL BELIEVE."

ACCORDING PRESS REPORT FROM VANCOUVER NEW DEMOCRATIC LEADER T. C. DOUGLAS SHORTLY AFTER ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 22 DESCRIBED QUARANTINE AS "BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ABSENCE OF STATE OF WAR." ADDED: "WE ALL KNOW CUBA WAS BEING TURNED INTO AN ARSENAL BUT NOW WE CAN APPRECIATE HOW THE SOVIET UNION FELT WHEN IT WAS BEING RINGED WITH AIR BASES BY WESTERN POWERS." REPORT ADDED DOUGLAS HAD NOT HEARD SPEECH PRESIDENT.

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